

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 30 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chapter 7 (Disposition Sections 7.1, <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/UPA/chapter%207.html>) (referred to herein as “Chapter 7”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

The present invention teaches a business asset management system, method, and computer-program product that operates in real time to allow all aspects of asset management to be performed.

Claim 1 recites:

- identifying one or more of said assets for management and submitting an asset disposition request to said central server;
- at the central server, automatically, based on receipt of said asset disposition request, obtaining all required approvals for said asset disposition request;
- at the central server, automatically, based on said obtaining of all required approvals, effecting said asset disposition request; and
- at the central server, automatically modifying said data to reflect said effected disposition request (lines 4-11).

Independent claim 11 recites similar language. Independent claim 21 recites that the same steps recited in claim 1 are performed by computer-readable program code.

The claimed asset management process is initiated by an employee of an organization using a client platform. Once the asset management process request is received by the central server from the client platform, the central server automatically performs all the steps of the process. When the process is complete, the central server automatically updates the organization's data in real time to reflect that the asset management process has been completed.

The present system allows users to obtain automated approval for an asset management process when they initiate the process. The method and system also ensures that assets are written off the books as soon as they have been disposed of. Further, a listing of surplus assets that can be utilized by other employees in the company is created and made available to the employees, and employees are able to transfer assets to other employees, and update assets as appropriate. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention is embodied in a Graphical User Interface (GUI).

Chapter 7 (Disposition Sections 7.1, <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/UPA/chapter%207.html>).

Chapter 7 teaches a procedure that will be followed by the employees in an organization for the disposition of an asset. The document informs the individual employees what specific steps they are to carry out in the procedure.

In the procedures listed in Chapter 7, an employee is directed to dispose of an asset by submitting an on-line disposal request (DR). Once an employee submits the on-line DR, Chapter 7 lists the information that employees of the organization must gather about the asset and lists the steps that employees must perform in order to complete the asset disposal procedure. All the steps listed in Chapter 7 are carried out manually by employees of the organization. Specifically, the table beginning on page 11, line 19 lists nine steps of the procedure that must be manually performed by designated employees of the organization. For example, in step 3 on page 11, lines 25-27, the Property Management Office (PMO) reviews and approves a DR and then routes the DR to the Surplus Property Sales division. In step 8 on page 12, lines 20-22, the PMO updates the organization's records to reflect the disposal of the asset.

The Cited Prior Art Does Not Anticipate the Claimed Invention

The MPEP and case law provide the following definition of anticipation for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §102:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP §2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Company of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)

The Examiner Has Not Established a *Prima Facie* Case of Anticipation

As noted above, the present claimed invention has a central server that automatically performs the steps required to manage an organization's assets including obtaining required

approvals and updating the organization's records. As a result, employees of the organization are not required to spend time researching information about an asset in order to know what the proper procedure is for disposing of that asset. Additionally, the organization's asset management data is updated in real time to reflect changes in the status of its assets.

In contrast to the present invention, Chapter 7 does not control its asset management through a central server. Rather, Chapter 7 gives directions to the employees of an organization regarding the manual steps that must be taken in order to dispose of the organization's assets.

The Examiner states that page 5, line 16 of Chapter 7 discloses a central server configured to access data and software systems of said organization. However, nowhere does Chapter 7 contain any type of disclosure about any type of server. Page 5, line 16 on Chapter 7 simply discloses that disposal requests can be submitted on-line. On-line submission simply means that data can be sent from one person to another via a computer.

Similarly, the Examiner states that page 5, line 27 of Chapter 7 discloses identifying one or more of said assets for management and submitting an asset disposition request to said central server. However, the language pointed to by the Examiner makes no mention of any type of server and the identification referred to in that line is only a classification of whether an asset is "excess" or not. Nowhere does Chapter 7 disclose that an asset disposition request is submitted to a central server that automatically performs the disposition and updates the organization's data, as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner further states that page 12, step 8 of Chapter 7 discloses automatically modifying said data to reflect said effected disposition request. However, the cited passage

specifically discloses that it is the responsibility of the Property Management Office (PMO) to update the records with the sales/scrap data per Surplus Property Sales (SPS) disposition report. One division of the organization (PMO) must manually update the organization's data based on information contained in a monthly report generated by another division of the organization (SPS). This type of manual updating of the organization's records disclosed in Chapter 7 (and the delays associated with it) is precisely the problem in the prior art that the present invention addresses.

Although Chapter 7 discloses using computers for on-line form submission and email to send messages from one employee to another in order to perform isolated steps of the asset disposal process outlined in the document, nowhere does Chapter 7 disclose a central server or any type of computer that will automatically carry out the process of asset management and the updating of organization records as in the claimed invention. Accordingly, each of the independent claims (Claims 1, 11 and 21), and all claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Chapter 7 and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2007

Amdt. dated August 21, 2007

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Mark D. Simpson/
Mark D. Simpson, Esquire
Registration No. 32,942

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
1101 Market Street
Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Telephone: (215) 923-4466
Facsimile: (215) 923-2189

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